AFT Connecticut
A Union of Professionals

Testimony of
Shellye M. Davis

President, Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals
Jurisdictional Vice President for Paraprofessionals & School Related Personnel, AFT Connecticut

Labor & Public Employees Committee Public Hearing
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SB 242 AN ACT CONCERNING SICK LEAVE FOR TEACHER ASSISTANTS AND RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS

Good afternoon Senator Holder-Winfield, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor & Public Employees Committee. My name is Shellye Davis and I am a paraprofessional in the Hartford school district. I am also the President of the Hartford Federation of Paraprofessionals and the Jurisdictional Vice President for Paraprofessionals and School Related Personnel at AFT Connecticut, a diverse union of nearly 29,000 members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in opposition to SB 242, An Act Concerning Sick Leave for Teacher Assistants and Radiologic Technologists.

One of the main ideas behind paid sick leave is that it provides a public good for all of society by allowing an employee to recover from an illness without having to make a decision between their job, bills, and their budget or choosing their health, and the health of their coworkers. One week of missed work for a teacher assistant can have a significant impact on their family's budget.

Contagious illnesses spread quickly when people are in confined spaces and when people work in close proximity to one another. In our education system, paraprofessionals and teacher assistants can spend their entire day in one classroom of more than 30 students. By ensuring that our paraprofessionals and teacher assistants have access to paid sick leave we can help to stop other faculty, staff, and students from losing valuable classroom time due to the spread of contagious illnesses.

Please Support Senate Bill 242.

Thank you